



Chicago teachers fight 'for the common good'



Chicago teachers on strike

By Scott Scheffer

After 11 days on strike, delegates of Chicago Teachers Union have suspended the Chicago teachers' walk-out and members are headed back to their classrooms.

A tentative agreement has been reached with Chicago Public Schools that appears to have secured a good deal for the workers on "bread and butter" issues, and victories on items the union had pressed for that would improve conditions for their students and for the community. A vote by the full membership is imminent.

Seventy-five-hundred education support workers in SEIU Local 73 struck along with CTU and accepted an agreement last Sunday. The wage increases range between 17 percent and 40 percent over five years, nearly doubled sick days for some staff and restrictions on the use of private contractors. In a show of solidarity, Local 73 continued to walk the picket lines along with their 25,000 teacher co-workers.

There were many other acts of solidarity with CTU during the strike. A fantastic video/music recognition of progressive demands that the strike leaders made was posted on Facebook by musical legend Rebel Diaz.

Teamsters Local 705 Secretary-Treasurer Juan Campos announced that no Teamsters would cross the picket line. On Oct. 29, the Latino Caucus of the Chicago City Council publicly urged Mayor Lori Lightfoot to settle. Their support was important in majority Black and Brown Chicago, where 47 percent of Chicago's student population are Latinx.

At that point, CTU leadership said they were within \$38 million of a settlement. The administration said the gap was actually \$100 million. The difference is due to sleight of hand by the administration. When the new city budget was written in April, teacher pensions — some \$60 million — were shifted to the separate budget of Chicago Public Schools. All other public workers' pensions

remained in the city's budget. The shift was meant for leverage during the negotiations with CTU that the administration knew would happen later in 2019.

As the city administration cried poverty and deceived the public about the availability of the \$38 million needed to settle the strike, CTU members rallied at Lincoln Yards — the site of a huge high-end apartment complex being built by developer Sterling Bay. The real estate corporation had been gifted more than \$1 billion in taxpayers' money by the city to incentivize the project.

The city's intransigence finally crumbled. During what was described as a raucous meeting on Oct. 30, about 700 delegates in the CTU decided in a very close vote to bring the school district's latest offer to the full membership. There was a great deal of pressure, the negotiations had been tough, and the non-elected Chicago school board was on the verge of cutting off health insurance.

The settlement seems a big improvement over the previous strike in 2012. It guarantees all members a 16 percent raise over the five-year life of the contract, while the CTU had initially asked for a 15 percent increase over 3 years. The city raised its offer for class size support to \$35 million. Every school will have a nurse and a social worker by 2023. And 120 new "equity positions" will be added for highest need schools such as counselors, restorative justice coordinators, librarians and additional staffing in bilingual and special education.

School strikes in 2018

In 2018, teachers and other education workers in five different states carried out a series of strikes that showed people across the country the real conditions for teachers. Suddenly people could see the reality of underpaid teachers that used their own money for school supplies, who had to teach oversized classes with not enough books, in crumbling

buildings, with no medical staff, no librarians, and no counselors.

Through the strikes the lies that had been propagated by anti-union forces for decades were exposed. It became clear that teachers are as concerned about their students as they are about their own livelihoods. Each strike included demands that promoted the well-being of their students and their communities. For example, in the leadup to the third teachers strike of 2018 in Arizona, when teachers were offered a 20 percent pay raise, they turned it down because it was at the expense of social service programs in the state budget. This was an example of a revived awareness on the part of union leaders of how important the natural alliance between community and unions is.

This trend mushroomed when the educators' strike wave hit the diverse cities of Los Angeles in January 2019 and then Chicago in November — the second and third largest school districts in the country respectively. In both struggles union leadership raised and won at least partial victories on the issue of sanctuary for the thousands of undocumented students. They attacked the notion of public schools being patrolled by armed police who frequently arrest children. They demanded less of the testing that has been weaponized against students of color.

At the beginning of the Chicago strike they even demanded from the city more money for low income housing. In an article on education-dive.com, United Teachers Los Angeles President Alex Caputo-Pearl referred to the approach in both strikes as "bargaining for the common good." "The current Chicago strike," Caputo-Pearl says, "is a powerful continuation of this movement, transforming education and the labor movement, fighting for common sense demands like more nurses, counselors and social workers, fighting for those against Republicans and Democrats." ■

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INSIDE

GLOBAL

BRAZIL

Lula freed!

On Nov. 8, Brazil's former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva walked out of the prison in Curitiba, Brazil. Lula went to prison in April last year on a 12-year sentence. Five-hundred and eighty days of prison are now over, as the Federal Supreme Court ruled that inmates who have not yet exhausted their appeals should not be held in prison.



HAITI

Anniversary of La Saline Massacre

As protests demanding the resignation of President Moïse in Haiti rage on this month, leaving at least 18 dead and close to 200 injured, it is worth remembering the devastating massacre that took place because of similar political opposition almost one year ago today. Beginning on Nov. 1, 2018 in an impoverished neighborhood of Port-au-Prince known as La Saline, estimates contend that hundreds of Haitians were murdered or injured, with hundreds more displaced. La Saline, a long-time stronghold of the oppositional Fanmi Lavalas Political Organization, has been severely damaged, enduring the destruction of infrastructures such as schools, homes and hospitals.

Full at tinyurl.com/y2jneqx7

BOLIVIA

Racist, misogynist attacks on socialists

Frustrated by its defeat in the presidential elections held in the country on Oct. 20 and emboldened by U.S. support, the Bolivian opposition has scaled up its attacks on supporters of the process of change led by President Evo Morales and the Movement Towards Socialism. On Nov. 6, a series of atrocious attacks were carried out on MAS supporters and elected officials.

Full at tinyurl.com/yy5pqy6l

CHILE Pages 7 and 8

What does Wall Street’s repo crisis mean?

By Gary Wilson

In the week of Sept. 16, the U.S. financial system ran out of cash. It was a modern version of a bank run, and it’s not over yet.

That week, the rate of interest on bank to bank overnight loans—known as repurchase agreements, or repos—suddenly spiked as high as 10 percent.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York responded with \$75 billion in purchases of short-term U.S. government securities, essentially cheap loans to the U.S. commercial banking system.

This is the biggest such operation by the Federal Reserve since the panic days of 2008.

The Fed opened a money spigot, making the overnight loans daily, increasing the amount to \$120 billion by Oct. 23, and quietly stating that this operation will continue through at least January 2020.

So what happened? No Wall Street banking crisis has been declared. There have been no hearings held by Congress. Not one elected official in the U.S. has authorized these loans, though they are backed by the U.S. Treasury.

Does this mean that a new 2008-type financial crisis and associated “Great Recession”—or worse—is imminent for the U.S. economy?

Banks are corporations

Banks are corporations with one goal: giving shareholders a profit. The primary asset of a bank, it’s profit-maker, is loans, mainly to industrial and commercial capitalists, as well as consumer credit cards and the purchase of durable consumer goods such as houses, cars and appliances.

When there is a downturn in the capitalist industrial cycle, creditors start to fall behind on their repayment of loans.

Rather than reporting “nonperforming loans,” banks will often extend new loans or simply lengthen the terms of an existing loan. The banks hope that the nonperforming loans will become performing loans once again as business picks up.

However, if loan repayments continue to be nonperforming or a more severe economic downturn makes more of the banks’ loans nonperforming, a point is reached where the banks’ loan crisis cannot be concealed.

A bank run happens when depositors have lost confidence in the bank and demand payment in cash.

During a general bank run, the banks scramble for cash. To conserve cash, the commercial banks halt new loans and existing loans are called in. The owners of commodity capital—industrial and commercial capitalists—also are forced to scramble for cash as their debts are called in by the banks and other creditors.

Forced to raise cash quickly, they dump their unsold commodities at great losses, causing prices to fall sharply. Production, trade and, most significantly, employment contract sharply.

To avert this, commercial banks are required to pay into an insurance fund. In the event of a bank failure, the fund is used to promptly repay the depositors. In 1934, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was established, backed by the full credit of the U.S. government.

Even if the Federal Deposit Insurance Fund were exhausted, the U.S. government is charged with coming up with the money to pay off the depositors of failed banks, at least up to the insured limit.

Student loans

Now, no banking loan crisis has been declared and no one is saying why the Fed is feeding more than \$120 billion a day into Wall Street, but there are known financial crises looming.

Student loan debt burdens 44 million people in the U.S. The total national student debt is now over \$1.5 trillion. Outstanding student loan debt has outpaced credit card and auto debt.

Every day, 3,000 student loan borrowers go into default. The Brookings Institution estimates that as many as 40 percent of borrowers could default on their student loans by 2023.

The rate at which student-loan

borrowers can’t pay their debt looks a lot like the rate at which people could not pay their mortgages during the 2008 financial crisis.

Banks too big to fail

It is clear now that in 2008 many of the largest banks in the U.S. were in reality insolvent. By law, insolvent banks should be liquidated. But these weren’t small banks. Liquidating an insolvent mega-bank is virtually impossible.

Today, the FDIC holds \$107 billion, which is enough to cover only 1.4 percent of insured deposits. The deposits of the five largest U.S. banks, with 40 percent of all U.S. bank deposits, alone exceeds \$5.6 trillion. So five banks have about \$5.6 trillion more or less in deposit liabilities.

The U.S. Treasury in 2018 had \$507.5 billion in assets — not trillion. In other words, the cash that would be necessary to repay the enormous deposit liabilities of the mega-banks simply does not exist.

Although the Federal Reserve did not explain its actions, the current “repo crisis” does not appear to involve a crisis of bank insolvency, at least in the immediate sense, but rather a shortage of bank reserves. Bank reserves include the cash on hand to pay depositors who wish to withdraw all or a portion of their deposits from the bank and what the economists call “central bank money.” Central bank money consists of the deposits of commercial banks at the central bank — one of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks that make up the Federal Reserve System.

What are repos?

In order to maximize their profits, banks keep their reserves as low as economic caution and legal requirements allow, but they do have to maintain some cash reserves. On any given day, individual banks often find themselves short of cash reserves while other banks have surplus reserves.

Therefore, banks with surplus cash loan it to banks that are short of cash. Sometimes these are actual loans, and sometimes they are re-

purchase agreements or repos.

In a repurchase agreement, a bank that is short of cash reserves sells a short-term government security to another bank for cash. It agrees that it will buy back the treasury note the next day at a slightly higher price than it sold it. The difference between the price the bank with a cash shortage sells the treasury security for and the slightly higher price it buys it back for is the repo rate of interest.

As a general rule, the repo rate is more or less in line with the federal funds rate. But on Sept. 16-17, 2019, some banks were so in need of ready cash they were willing to pay a rate of 10 percent, far above the federal funds rate of around 2.25 percent.

What the banking system needed and the Federal Reserve System is now providing is liquidity in the form of ready cash. A sudden demand for cash like this is a classic symptom of a capitalist economic crisis.

The shortage of cash reserves in the U.S. banking system is the strongest indication yet of a downturn in the industrial cycle. If a U.S. recession has not already begun, the repo crisis says that a recession is not far off.

But won’t the U.S. Federal Reserve stave off a recession by moving to increase bank reserves by simply increasing the quantity of Federal Reserve-created dollars? Trump has been demanding that the Fed do exactly that, hoping that the next recession will be postponed until sometime after the November 2020 election.

Technically and legally under the current “fiat money” system, the Fed can create any amount of dollars it wants to. So maybe a recession is not imminent after all?

The Fed can maneuver but it cannot prevent a recession once conditions for a recession have fully matured.

There is only one answer to the bankers when they say they are too big to fail and demand to be bailed out. The answer has to be the expropriation of the capitalists and a turnover to socialism.

The banks being too big to fail means that capitalism itself has become “too big” to continue. 📌



SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

New York city transit workers rally on Oct. 30

Transit workers rally in NYC To hell with Pat Fraud!

By Stephen Millies

New York, Oct. 30 — Ten thousand transit workers jammed Manhattan’s lower tip to-night to say “No!” to the Metropolitan Transit Authority’s giveback demands. MTA chairman Pat Foye — also known as “Pat Fraud” — is demanding workers pay much more money for health insurance.

The 41,000 members of Transit Workers Union Local 100 move New York City. A trillion dollars worth of real estate would be worthless without their labor.

Yet the big business media has been running a hate campaign against TWU members, many of whom work in dangerous conditions underground in the subways and above the streets on elevated lines.

These capitalist mouthpieces scream about overtime pay but don’t point out that the MTA refuses to hire enough workers. TWU members are sick of these lies.

The union shared videos of TWU founder Mike Quill tearing up an anti-strike injunction and saying “the judge can drop dead in his black robes.” Quill also once demanded the transit fare be free.

TWU founder Quill was for a free fare

Mike Quill was sent to jail for leading a 12-day strike in 1966. He died in jail but the TWU won the 1966 strike. Forty years later then TWU Local 100 president Roger Toussaint was also jailed. Public workers in New York State are shackled by the Taylor law that make strikes illegal.

Local 100 President Tony Utano reminded workers that billionaire mayor Mike Bloomberg called transit workers “thugs” while mayor Ed Koch called the union members “whackos.” TWU international president John Samuelson also spoke at the rally.

Like teachers in Chicago, transit workers in New York City are angry as hell and won’t take it anymore. 📌

Protest demands justice for Marlyn Barnes

By Leon Koufax

On Oct. 5, a few dozen activists with the Prisoner Solidarity Committee gathered outside the Harford County Detention Center in Bel Air, Md., to protest the untimely death of father of five, Marlyn Barnes and demand justice for all prisoners suffering unjustly. The detention center is located approximately 35 miles northeast of Baltimore City. As documented in The Afro, Barnes died on April 10 in the custody of the Harford County Sheriff's Office, which operates the detention center.

Local law enforcement declared Barnes' death a suicide after a rapid investigation. Since then, the family has faced obfuscation, unclarity and stonewalling from the Harford County authorities and the Maryland state Chief Medical Examiner's Office. This has included a delay of two months in making the autopsy available, providing incorrect information to the family regarding public information act requests and general refusal to meet with the family.

Furthermore, when the family, through an attorney, finally did obtain surveillance video of the detention center from the day of Barnes' death — it was exceedingly low in quality. The video was highly pixelated, inexplicably smudged and lacking audio. The most recent installment in this saga of misdirec-

tion and confusion was a letter from the Harford County sheriff, Jeffrey Gahler, denying the family attorney's request to meet and deferring to his office's legal counsel.

Sheriff Gahler does not seem to be interested in providing answers regarding what happened the day that Marlyn Barnes' life was tragically cut short. For this reason, family members, joined by local activists and community members, picketed the Harford County Detention Center on Oct. 5. Miss Marilyn Barnes addressed the audience, making it clear that she is only interested in truth and justice for her son. She also emphasized that this issue goes beyond just her son. Millions of working-class people, particularly Black and Brown people, experience abuse, discrimination and sometimes death in detention centers across the United States.

Conditions at detention center

Local activists also raised the specific conditions at the Harford County Detention Center and a sheriff's office with a checkered past. Since 1996, over a dozen inmates have "committed suicide" at the Harford County Detention Center. This is the second highest rate in the state of Maryland. The number is especially high when considering that most prisoners in detention centers are there for no more than a few days.



Protesters at Harford County Detention Center in Bel Air, Md.

SLL PHOTO

On top of this, the Harford County Sheriff's Office has come under scrutiny for racist police practices and its level of cooperation with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Prisoner Solidarity Committee is calling for a full people's investigation into the death of Marlyn Barnes, including a meeting between the family's attorney and various

Harford County officials. The committee has requested the full release of the names of individuals incarcerated at the detention center who are believed to have witnessed Barnes' death. Moreover, the committee believes the entire Harford County Sheriff's Department should be investigated for racist policing practices and generally inhumane conditions at the detention center. [U]

Since 1970, Indigenous people & allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression that Native people continue to experience.

50th National Day of Mourning



Thursday
November 28, 2019
12 noon – 5 pm
Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock)
 Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360

Unite with us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally. Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!
We welcome all our Indigenous relations who have been
crossed by the US border and ICE. #closethecamps

"Special message from Leonard Peltier"
Respectful allies welcome



For more information/orientation
info@uaine
facebook.com/groups/Uaine
 No drugs or alcohol allowed
 [Tentative Social to follow]
#NDOM2019
#NOTHANKSNOGIVING
 Donate: gf.me/u/vumxka

Never forget Fred Hampton

The long shadow
of the Chicago
race riot PART 6

By Stephen Millies

By 1960, Chicago's Black community reached 813,000 people, nearly a quarter of the city's total population. The Great Migration of African Americans continued until the mid-1970s' capitalist economic crisis.

Northern industry needed Black labor. Tens of thousands of African Americans were employed in factories like U.S. Steel's massive South Works and International Harvester.

The McCormick family fortune started with Cyrus McCormick's harvester works. Old man McCormick supported slavery and during the Civil War gave \$50,000—worth over \$1 million today—to pro-Confederate “copperhead” terrorists.

On May 3, 1886, Chicago police killed two striking workers at the McCormick works. Some reports say six were killed. The protest rally called the next day led to the frame-up and hanging of the Haymarket Martyrs.

The McCormick family bought the Chicago Tribune, which became the Midwest's biggest newspaper. The Tribune allegedly wrote some of the speeches given by Joseph McCarthy for his anti-communist witch hunt. It was notorious for its racism and attacks on any progressive struggle. One example occurred in 1968.

By that time, 60 percent of the city's bus operators were African American. These drivers paid dues to Local 241 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, yet they weren't allowed to vote in union elections. Only 3,500 retired workers, all of whom were white, were permitted to do so.

This intolerable situation led to the formation of a Black caucus, called the Concerned Transit Workers. Two wildcat strikes were called by the CTW in the summer of 1968 that shut down most bus routes. (The second one began the day before the



Democratic Convention opened.)

Local newspapers, like the Tribune, called this struggle for justice “a Black Power plot.” An injunction was issued not only against the CTW but also against sympathy strikes by workers on the elevated lines.

By September, the capitalist state—and the firing of 42 drivers—forced the CTW to call off its strike. But this struggle was crucial to eventually ending what a CTW leader called “the old plantation system” in Local 241.

Shoot to kill

Months before these bus strikes, African Americans on Chicago's West Side rebelled after Dr. King's assassination. Mayor Daley's response was to issue his infamous “shoot to kill” order to the police at a news conference.

Daley was so vicious that he repudiated his hand-picked police superintendent, James Conlisk, for not being bloodthirsty enough. Nine Black people were killed by the police.

For many African Americans, the “shoot to kill” order was the breaking point between themselves and the Daley machine. Even Daley felt the necessity to backtrack from his murderous statements. His press secretary then attacked the media for reporting what Daley had said,

not what he later said he meant.

Black people knew very well what the pig in City Hall meant. Many responded by boycotting the November 1968 elections. Even though the number of African Americans had increased since 1964, the Black vote declined.

The Black P. Stone Nation helped this movement along and it was a reason that Abdul Malik Ka'bah—then known as Jeff Fort—was years later sentenced to 168 years in jail.

The Black Panthers

Like an awakening giant, Chicago's Black community was resuming its position at the forefront of the African American struggle. The Black Panther Party filled the political vacuum that was created by the CIA-FBI-New York police assassination of Malcolm X.

One of the many reasons that the capitalist state was eager to silence Malcolm X was the escalating U.S. war against Vietnam. In 1965, African American GIs accounted for almost a quarter of U.S. combat deaths in Vietnam.

The Black Panther Party denounced this genocidal war. Hundreds of Vietnam veterans, like Geronimo Ji Jaga, joined the Panthers.

Under the leadership of Fred Hampton, the Illinois chapter of the Black

Panther Party became the largest in the country. This writer remembers attending a Chicago Free Bobby Seale rally in 1969, where six buses of supporters came from Rockford, Ill.

Fred Hampton grew up in Maywood, a Black suburb just west of Chicago. His father worked at International Harvester.

A natural leader, Hampton was quarterback of his high school football team. He became a revolutionary and infused everyone around him with his revolutionary optimism. Like Hugo Chávez, Fred Hampton had an electric-like ability to connect with the masses.

The Chicago police busted him for handing out hundreds of ice cream bars to kids. While in jail, Hampton won over the leader of a Puerto Rican gang to revolutionary politics. The group was called the Young Lords.

Millions of children have free school breakfasts today because of the Panthers' Free Breakfast for Children programs. In Chicago, the Black Panther Party also started a People's Medical Care Center. Up to 200 people a week benefited from these programs.

“You can kill the revolutionary, but you can't kill the revolution,” was Hampton's best known saying. On Dec. 4, 1969—fifty years after the “race riots”—Fred Hampton was murdered in his sleep by the cops. He was only 21 years old. A fellow Panther, Mark Clark, was also killed in the early morning raid at 2337 West Monroe St. conducted by the office of State Attorney Edward Hanrahan.

The police and the capitalist media lied about these assassinations and described them as a furious gun battle between the cops and the Panthers. The Chicago Tribune printed a large picture of a door that they claimed was riddled by bullet holes created by the Panthers' gunfire.

The bullet holes were actually nails. The truth came out because the Panthers were able to conduct tours of the blood-soaked rooms on Monroe Street.

Thousands of people, including this writer, attended Fred Hampton's funeral at the First Baptist Church in Melrose Park, Ill. Among the speakers was Claude Lightfoot of the Communist Party.

William O'Neal was an FBI informant within the Panthers who provided information to the pigs about the Panther house. Tormented by guilt, he committed suicide in 1990 by running onto the Eisenhower Expressway.

Besides Hampton and Clark, five other Panthers were killed by Chicago police. A quarter of all the Black Panther Party members who were gunned down across the country were members of its Illinois chapter.

The Daley machine and the FBI weren't able to kill the revolution, but assassinating Fred Hampton helped delayed it.

Sources: “The Hidden Civil War, the Story of the Copperheads” by Wood Gray, “Organized Labor and the Black Worker 1619–1973” by Philip S. Foner and “Boss, Richard J. Daley of Chicago” by Mike Royko
Read the complete series online at Struggle-La-Lucha.org.

Stop state fascism in the Philippines!

By Stephen Millies

New York, Nov. 4 — A picket line outside the Philippines Consulate tonight on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue protested police raids carried out in metropolitan Manila and Negros Island. They chanted, “Activism is not a crime!”

The action was called by BAYAN Northeast to protest the arrests carried out by police and the Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division on Oct. 31. The regional offices of the National Federation of Sugar Workers, the women's organization Gabriela and Bayan Muna were raided. Phony “evidence” was planted to conduct future frame-ups.



Sixty-two activists were seized in metropolitan Manila and the island of Negros. One couple that was arrested had their children seized.

A few days before, on Oct. 26, the Philippine military dropped 500-pound bombs on Samar Island.

Behind the dictator Duterte, in the Philippines, is the racist pig in the White House. Last year, Trump and

A rally was held in front of the Philippine National Police headquarters to denounce the illegal and unjust arrests in Bacolod and Manila.

the Pentagon provided at least \$193.5 million for the Philippine military. Another \$145.6 million more has been sent in 2019.

The result is the murder of hundreds of Indigenous leaders, unionists, teachers, lawyers, activists and even priests since 2016. Duterte imposed martial law on the island of Mindanao in 2017, and there is talk of extending it elsewhere.

The demonstrators in New York City linked the police violence in the Philippines with the killings by police in the U.S. The U.S. labor movement and all progressive people should show solidarity with the Filipino people. Oust the U.S.-Duterte regime! 🇵🇭

I believe that socialism is the key to a better world

From a talk by Gloria Verdieu at Queen Bee's Art and Cultural Center in San Diego. Verdieu shared the stage with poets from the San Diego/Tijuana reEvolutionary Poets Brigade at an evening of "Poetry, Education, and Voter Registration."

Thank you Jim for inviting me to speak at this important event. A lot of thought went into what I wanted to speak on since I am neither a Democrat nor a Republican. I am a socialist. I believe that socialism, which ultimately leads to communism, is the key to a better world for all of us.

I thought about an essay by political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal entitled "Women of the World" which begins with the words:

"Who can think of the world's women, and not marvel? There is no area of human endeavor upon which the mark of woman has not been made, and made well."

I thought about Sisters in the Struggle, Black women who fought for a better world for everyone while focusing on justice and freedom for Black people: Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune, Septima Clark, Fannie Lou Hamer and Ella Baker, all Black women of the Civil Rights and the Black Liberation movements.

I thought about Black women who have embraced socialism, as I have, and who committed their lives to creating a better world for all people:

Lucy Parsons, Mabel Byrd, Capitola Tasker, Lulia Jackson, Louise Thompson, Claudia Jones and Angela Davis.

Lucy Parsons, born in 1853, joined the Socialist Labor Party and fought for the rights of labor, Blacks and women until her death in 1942.

In 1934, three Black women joined the U.S. delegation that traveled to Paris for the International Women's Conference. Mabel Byrd was elected to be one of the conference secretaries. Capitola Tasker and Lulia Jackson stunned the conference with their eloquent testimonies about African-American struggles for human dignity.

Louise Thompson studied Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin and emerged as a leader in the Harlem Branch of the CPUSA. In the 1930s, her apartment became a forum where Black intellectuals and activists discussed the Bolshevik Revolution and the party's position on African Americans in the South.

Claudia Jones was born in Trinidad and became one of the most respected members of the CPUSA. Jones joined after working with the CPUSA in the defense of the Scottsboro Brothers.

Angela Davis's commitment to the struggle of Black people intensified on Sept. 15, 1963, when four Black girls were murdered in the racist bombing of a Baptist church in Birmingham, Alabama: Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley and Carole Robertson. As part of her militant activism, Angela Davis organized rallies and demonstrations defending the political prisoners known as the Soledad Brothers, and she herself became a political prisoner.

Okay, so what does a socialist country look and feel like?

To answer this, I would like to read a portion of a speech given by W.E.B.



W.E.B. Du Bois

Du Bois in 1959. Du Bois spent several months in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, the Soviet Union and China.

I have been to socialist Cuba several times. On one visit, I got sick and was admitted into a Cuban hospital, where I stayed for 16 days in 2007. I was 50 years old at the time, so I was in a room with seniors. I had 2 roommates in their 70s who had witnessed the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

During that two-and-a-half weeks I was worried about my job, because my vacation time had run out and my boss did not know I was in Cuba.

So, here are some observations from Du Bois in 1959 that I also noticed during my stay in Cuba in 2007.

"The people are ordinary folk; they are not in chains; they laugh and cry; they work and rest; there are homes and schools. Life goes on about the same as here. Of course with time and through observation you do see differences.

One thing they fear which we do not, and that is war. They know what war is, what it costs in death and destruction, in dislocation of life, in disease and hurt. The world fears war, except the United States. We laugh and joke about it. Our children play at murder.

In socialist countries, certain fears are absent which never leave the waking hours of Western lands, and are always there in the hours of sleep. They are four in number: unemployment, old age, sickness and opportunity to rest.

"Take any person you know, anyone you meet. Take yourself. We fear unemployment, losing our job, being unable to work.

This, the socialist citizen does not fear. He or she may have to change work, may have to change the place of work, but of work at current pay they are always sure.

We fear old age. What will we do when we're old? We are desperate to save enough to insure a decent life when we are too old to earn. Thousands of people walk our streets each day sick with fear of age. The citizens of socialist countries do not fear age. Every citizen is



Gloria Verdieu

certain of support, of food and shelter and clothes, as long as they live. It may not be of the highest quality or what we prefer, but they will not freeze nor starve.

We are frightened of sickness and accident, and attack of some disease, being knocked over by a car. Any day, any time, we may be put to bed by such misadventure. We may be covered by insurance, but many people are not. We can seldom afford the best medical care, and we nearly always lose pay and burden our families when sick. In socialist countries medical care is given great attention. Physicians are being increased rapidly in number and distribution according to the need, even if that need is in a lonesome country district or in a far-off province, or late at night. Medical care is available for all. Of course, everybody cannot get the best, but none are neglected.

All workers need rest, but how many of us dare take it? Some provision or recreation is made, but most workers do not get adequate recreation, and can hardly afford what they take. In socialist lands, the vacation with pay is part of the work contract. The vacation will not be at a fashionable resort, it may not be what the worker would choose, but it will be rest with medical care, with food and recreation.

These systems are not perfect. They break down here and there, now and then, but they are successful. This kind of rest and protection stands in the midst of the supporters of socialism.

Then there is the problem of children: the loss of time, the pain and discomfort of their birth, the time and money needed for their upbringing, the question of their education and life employment. Many people refuse to procreate children because of these problems so difficult to solve in capitalist lands with individual initiative. But in socialist lands the problem of children comes first. The working mother has rest time with pay during pregnancy. The children are in nurseries and kindergarten when small, and in school as they grow. There is higher education with pay for studying and school attendance and as they become

of age, free training for earning a living is open to them according to talent. All of these programs again are not perfect. School facilities lag. School programs go wrong. Monies are wasted. All of this and more, yet the school systems of socialist lands outstrip the systems of Western Europe and of the United States.

I can see the wealth of human ability the socialist lands are preserving and using for humanity, and see why they have little juvenile delinquency.

All this effort costs: in money, in freedom, in individual training. It means discipline. It means that individuals do what they are told to do, in many cases, rather than what they want to do. But is the situation much different here? Are we free in America to do what we please?

Of course not, in a world of natural law, in a world of human legislation, in a world of habit and inherited cultural patterns, the area of human freedom of action must be seriously curtailed. But it is further narrowed when industry, ownership of property, and distribution of income is directed by the owners of capital goods and by the men who own and control the labor of human beings. The question is not whether there will be discipline, but rather, who is to administer it and under what controls will most of the essential freedoms be conserved. The anarchy of individual rule and the rule of chance is inadmissible, just as complete slavery is unthinkable. Discipline involves planning, and planning is absolutely necessary for modern industry. We must not deceive ourselves by assuming that the industry of the United States is not planned. It is planned by the owners of capital and for the individual profit which the enterprises bring. This may lead to much prosperity, but it also leads to financial crises, to poverty, to exploitation and unemployment, and to crime. Socialism, on the contrary, tries to plan for the general welfare of all citizens. It owns the wealth used for industry. It controls the labor which produces wealth and seeks to distribute property according to need and not by chance, inheritance or force."

One of the principles of socialism is democratic centralism. It takes the full participation of everyone in order for this process of democratic centralism to work.

I am a registered voter and I believe in the democratic process, but I believe we must look carefully at what we are voting for because in this capitalistic system we continue to vote away our rights because we vote based on our individual needs and wants; not for the needs of everyone.

We must study socialism and capitalism, to figure out what it is going to take to make a better world for all people.

And we must fight for it!
Thank you for listening.

The book "Black August" compiled and edited by Gloria Verdieu will be available next month.

The Russian Revolution changed the world forever

By Stephen Millies

One-hundred-and-two years ago on Nov. 7, 1917, workers and peasants overthrew the capitalist government in Russia.

Two million soldiers in the Russian army had died in World War I. Russia was ruled by the cruel Czar Nicholas II.

Like the United States, the Russian Empire was a big prison of oppressed nationalities. Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Poles, Ukrainians, Georgians, Finns, Armenians and other peoples were denied self-determination.

Russian peasants and workers were also oppressed. Many had been serfs, a sort of land slavery. Serf families couldn't be broken up and sold like cattle, as African slaves were in the U.S., but they could be worked to death. Thirty thousand serfs died building St. Petersburg, the former Russian capital.

Serfdom was abolished in 1861, two years after John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry. The outbreak of the U.S. Civil War may have influenced the czar to get rid of serfdom before the serfs got rid of him.

Lenin and the Bolsheviks

By 1914, serfdom was gone, but 30,000 big landlords still ruled the countryside. The vast majority of people were peasants who couldn't read or write. Women had no rights.

Foreign capital poured into Russia, grabbing huge profits from long workdays in the factories. Striking workers were shot down.

Oppression breeds revolution. V.I. Lenin was the greatest leader of Russia's revolution. He built a communist party commonly known as the Bolsheviks.

Lenin was 17 when his older brother Alexander was hanged in 1887 for trying to assassinate Czar Alexander III. That's the same age Black revolutionary Jonathan Jackson was in 1970, when he was killed trying to free his older brother George Jackson and other political prisoners.

Lenin studied the teachings of Karl Marx. Lenin taught that workers had to be imbued with Marx's revolutionary knowledge and determination to win.

Soviets vs. pogroms

The first Russian Revolution broke out in 1905. Workers went on strike, shutting down factories and railroads. Peasants burned the gentry's mansions. Czarism was on the ropes.

Workers formed councils called soviets. These councils had no formal legislative power, but they had great authority among the workers, peasants and soldiers.

European banks poured in loans to save czarist tyranny. The 1905 Rev-

olution was defeated. The czar was able to pit peasant soldiers against workers and even other peasants, just as billionaires divide poor and working people in the U.S. today with racism and anti-immigrant bigotry.

Mass lynchings called pogroms killed Jewish people, just as the Ku Klux Klan did to African Americans here.

The Bolsheviks fought pogroms with guns in hand. Lenin waged war on racism. He enriched Marxism by teaching that workers in the big capitalist countries had to support revolts in the colonies.

"What emotion, enthusiasm, clear-sightedness and confidence it instilled into me!" was how Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh described Lenin's "Theses on the National and Colonial Questions."

Peace, land and bread

Sick of war and hunger, women textile workers in Petersburg went on strike on March 8, 1917, International Working Women's Day. The holiday commemorates a 1908 march of women garment workers in New York City.

Five days later, czarism was overthrown. Workers, peasants and soldiers made that revolution, but capitalists controlled the new government.

For the next eight months Lenin's

Bolsheviks won millions of poor people to socialist revolution by demanding bread, peace and land. Despite Lenin and other leaders being forced underground, Bolsheviks won majorities in the soviets that sprung up everywhere.

These soviets overthrew capitalist politician Alexander Kerensky on Nov. 7 (Oct. 25 by the old Russian calendar). Many peoples, not just Russians, rose up to break their chains.

Peasants threw out their landlords. Bolsheviks exposed secret treaties among the imperialists that divided up colonies. This revolutionary energy helped overthrow Germany's kaiser and end World War I in 1918.

Capitalist governments, including the U.S., then waged war against the Soviets on a dozen fronts. But the Red Army, organized and led by another Bolshevik leader, Leon Trotsky, was victorious.

The 73-year war

Following Lenin's death the enormous difficulties involved in trying to build socialism in a very underdeveloped country, encircled by imperialism, led to struggles in the party and then to backward steps. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin purged Bolshevik opponents while making concessions to careerists and increasing inequality.

Nevertheless, at the same time the Soviet Union launched the first and biggest affirmative action program in history. Every person had the right to education in their own language. The Soviet five-year plans created the world's second-biggest economy. Everyone had a job.

But the Soviet Union remained the target of world capitalism. German big capital handed power to Adolph Hitler's Nazi Party so the Nazis could crush the German working class. German imperialism invaded the Soviet Union in 1941.

With Stalin leading the government, the Soviet Union defeated Hitler, but nearly 26 million Soviet people died in World War II. The Red Army liberated all of Eastern Europe from Nazi rule, including the extermination camp at Auschwitz.

The Pentagon spent \$5.5 trillion on nuclear weapons aimed at the Soviet Union. This relentless pressure undermined socialist solidarity and finally led to the downfall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Despite this tremendous defeat, the lessons of the October Revolution will live forever. 📌



Vladimir Lenin giving a speech to the Red Army in Sverdlov Square, Moscow, May 5, 1920. On the right of the platform is Leon Trotsky, commander of the Red Army.



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From Damascus to New York, solidarity with imprisoned Palestinians

By Greg Butterfield

Throughout the world, movements for social justice and people's liberation recognize that one of the most important acts of solidarity is support for political prisoners. Those who have sacrificed their freedom for the liberation struggle and suffer in the clutches of the oppressor must not be forgotten. The people must fight for their health and freedom to give confidence to others to join the struggle.

Occupied Palestine is a crucible of political prisoners. Subjected to decades of brutal military occupation and apartheid rule by the Zionist Israeli state and its U.S. masters, the Palestinian people continue to fight for their homeland. And today, up to 5,500 Palestinians, including children, are held in Israeli prisons, where they are subject to indefinite detention, isolation and torture of all sorts.

The incredible injustice that Palestinians are subject to, and the heroic resistance of prisoners imbued with the Palestinian spirit of resistance, is demonstrated by the case of Heba al-Labadi.

Al-Labadi is a young Palestinian woman with Jordanian citizenship — forced to live in the diaspora as are so many banished from their homeland by the racist occupation. In August, she was seized by the Israeli military at a border crossing as she accompanied her mother to a family wedding.

Al-Labadi was tortured and interrogated for weeks before being hit with a six-month “administrative detention” order — which allows Israel to hold Palestinians without charge or trial, and can be renewed indefinitely. The charge against her was publishing “inciting posts” on social media. She launched a hunger strike on Sept. 24.

Finally, after weeks of international outcry and protests, Heba al-Labadi suspended her hunger strike on Nov. 5, after 42 days. According to al-Labadi's attorney, an agreement was reached for her to be released and returned to Jordan, along with another Jordanian citizen illegally held by Israel, Abdelrahman Meri.

Supporters remain on alert until her safe return and concerned for

the long-term effects of torture she endured.

Protest supports prisoners, hits Turkey-U.S. invasion

The fight for imprisoned and exiled freedom fighters intersects with many other struggles. Think of how Mumia Abu-Jamal and Assata Shakur have inspired the movement against racist police terror in the U.S.

And so in Damascus, the Syrian capital, an important rally was held on Oct. 29 in a public park. The action supported the struggle of Palestinian prisoners and condemned NATO member Turkey's invasion of eastern Syria in collaboration with the Trump and Netanyahu regimes.

The action was organized by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a leading Marxist voice of the Palestinian resistance, and the Syrian Unified Communist Party, just a day after U.S. President Donald Trump bragged at a conference of police chiefs in Chicago that “We're keeping the oil” in eastern Syria. “Remember that. I've always said: Keep the oil. We want to keep the oil — \$45 million a month. Keep the oil.”

“What I intend to do, perhaps, is make a deal with ExxonMobil or one of our great companies to go in there and do it properly,” Trump said at an earlier news conference.

Washington, first under the Obama administration and later under Trump, violated Syria's sovereignty and international law by arming and funding reactionary groups in a failed attempt to overthrow the country's government. Earlier in October, Trump briefly bluffed that he was going to withdraw U.S. troops illegally stationed in eastern Syria — opening the way for Turkey to invade.

Many displaced Palestinians live in Syria, and Israel illegally occupies the Syrian territory of Golan Heights.

The Damascus protesters linked the struggle to defend Syria's sovereignty with the cause of prisoners in the Israeli occupation's prisons, “affirming that the detainees' case is not only a humanitarian one, but it is the most important case of the conflict with the Zionist enemy and a main part of the struggle of the Palestinian people for their legitimate and inalienable rights,” the Syrian Arab News Agency reported.



PHOTO: SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY

Speakers drew parallels between the determined struggle of the Palestinian prisoners and that of the Syrian people, who have persevered through years of U.S.-Turkish-Israeli sponsored terrorist war and continue to resist foreign interference in Syria's internal affairs and to defend the country's sovereignty.

They fear Khalida Jarrar

Before dawn on Oct. 31, some 80 heavily armed soldiers and a dozen military vehicles surrounded the home of Khalida Jarrar in the West Bank. Jarrar was seized and detained, as were other members of the PFLP. More raids were reported on Nov. 5.

Jarrar was taken to Ofer prison, where an Israeli military court on Nov. 3 extended her detention for another eight days, citing “secret evidence” by the military prosecution.

An outspoken member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, a leading feminist and advocate for prisoners, Jarrar has been an implacable voice for the Palestinian cause at home and abroad. As such, she is deeply feared by the racist occupiers, and has been jailed many times — most recently for 20 months under administrative detention. She was released just eight months ago.

The PFLP condemned the Israeli raids against Jarrar, Ali Jaradat and “dozens of cadres in different parts of the West Bank, as well as the storming of the homes of detained comrades” as “nothing but a failed and desperate attempt to break the will of the Front and ... discourage it from continuing the path of resis-

tance that it has planned with its solid positions and the sacrifices of its comrades, martyrs and prisoners.”

The PFLP called on the people to take the streets in protest and “pledged to the masses of our people that we will continue the path of resistance and will not deviate from it, however the targeting of its leaders, cadres and institutions escalates.”

Join Days of Action Nov. 8-11

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network has called for Days of Action Nov. 8-11, highlighting the cases of Khalida Jarrar, Heba al-Labadi and Samer Arbeed.

Arbeed, a husband and father detained on Sept. 25, has been brutalized so severely that he is hospitalized and hooked up to a dialysis machine. But the torture continues — Israel interrogators even tear gassed Arbeed in his hospital room!

During the days of actions, supporters are urged to organize or join an event or protest for the Palestinian prisoners, write letters and make phone calls to protest the violation of Palestinian prisoners' rights, and support the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

In New York, an action is planned for Nov. 9. In addition to raising the plight of the Palestinian prisoners, the protest will support the #BoycottPuma campaign to force the sneaker company to withdraw from lucrative dealings with Israel.

For more information on planned actions, updates on prisoners' cases, and downloadable protest signs and flyers, visit Samidoun.net.

CHILE

Protests enter third week

While Chilean President Sebastián Piñera has claimed that normality has returned to Chile, protests in the country against the neoliberal policies imposed by his government entered a third week on Nov. 4. As a part of the “Super Monday” protest, called for by the Social Unity Board, tens of thousands of people once again took to the streets across the country, demanding the resignation of the president.

Full at tinyurl.com/y29xzp07



Message from Chilean activist at the Anti-Imperialist Solidarity Conference in Cuba

The struggle in Chile continues until we achieve the long-awaited constituent assembly, awaited for 30 years by our past generations, our mothers and grandmothers. Today young Chileans have produced a wonderful and multi-generational social awakening. We have nothing to lose, today we are going for everything. We got tired and united, they have taken us so much that they took away our fear!

Greetings to the North American and Caribbean peoples, a greeting of hope for their struggle that belongs to everyone!

Gabriel Garcia
Cuba solidarity coordinator, Communist Party of Chile

Levantamiento catalán expone fraudulenta democracia española

Por Iña Martinez

Las protestas militantes estallaron en Barcelona y otras ciudades de Cataluña, una región colonizada del estado español, después de que un tribunal español dictara duras condenas a nueve líderes independentistas catalanes a mediados de octubre. Durante una huelga general del 18 de octubre convocada por Intersindical-CSC e Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya, los sindicatos se unieron en “Marchas por la Libertad” masivas en toda Cataluña. Struggle-La Lucha presenta este comentario de la activista vasca Iña Martínez sobre los recientes eventos y la larga lucha de los pueblos catalán y vasco por la revolución y la liberación nacional.

“Todo sin violencia”

Es la frase-mentira repetida hasta la saciedad por el gobierno español para engañar a los pueblos catalán y vasco entre otros. El Gobierno español y sus medios decían una y otra vez “Todo sin violencia” para que nos creyéramos que si ETA (Euskalerrria ‘Ta Askatasuna=País Vasco y Libertad) dejaba las armas (que lo hizo en 2011) se podría hablar de todo sin violencia. A fecha de 2019 se ha visto que TODO SIN VIOLENCIA no era más que un eslogan más para no responder a las ansias de democracia y libertad de nuestro pueblo, el vasco, el pueblo catalán y cualquier otro pueblo colonizado por el estado español. El estado español siempre ha ejercido el monopolio de la violencia y así quiere que siga siendo.

Cataluña

Un poco de historia: El Presidente catalán Lluís Companys murió fusilado el 15 de octubre de 1940 por los fascistas españoles que instauraron la dictadura con el Golpe de Estado de 1936. Él, a petición del pueblo catalán, había declarado la Independencia de Cataluña unos años antes. El pueblo catalán sigue ansiando gobernarse a sí mismo. No le gusta vivir bajo el yugo español.

Mensaje del activista chileno en la Conferencia de Solidaridad Antiimperialista en Cuba



La lucha en Chile sigue hasta conseguir la esperada asamblea constituyente, esperada por 30 años por nuestras generaciones pasadas nuestras madres y abuelas. Hoy en día los jovenes chilenos produjeron un despertar social maravilloso y multigeneracional, no tenemos nada que perder, hoy vamos por todo. Nos cansamos nos unimos, nos han quitado tanto que nos quitaron el miedo!

Saludos al pueblo norteamericano y del caribe un esperanzador saludo en su lucha que es de todos!

Gabriel Garcia
Coordinadora solidaridad con Cuba, Partido Comunista de Chile



La dictadura fascista que sometió a todos los pueblos, catalán, gallego, vasco, y a todo aquel que no concordara con la idea de “La España Una, Grande y Libre” duró de 1939 a 1975 cuando el dictador murió plácidamente en su cama el 20 de noviembre de 1975 a punto de cumplir los 83 años. Nos quisieron vender que una vez muerto el perro moría la rabia. No fue así. El dictador como buen dictador, no iba a dejar al azar la situación en España. Preparó durante años al que a su muerte iba a ser su sustituto, el Rey Juan Carlos I.

España en 1936 era una República (de izquierdas, nada que ver con los republicanos de EEUU) y la Monarquía había sido destituida. Vuelta a 1975, Franco antes de morir hace jurar a Juan Carlos I los Principios de la Dictadura, que Juan Carlos firma gustoso. Y así vivimos bajo una pretendida democracia pero realmente es una Monarquía Constitucional.

Evaristo Páramos, cantante de la Polla Records hace esta observación: “El fascismo se comió la libertad y tras 40 años de digestión cagó esta democracia.”

El pueblo catalán ha persistido en su afán de independizarse de España desde entonces, antes incluso, y seguirá persistiendo. Vivir bajo un régimen que te menosprecia no es aconsejable. El 1 de octubre del 2017 el gobierno catalán propuso un

referéndum al que fueron a votar 2 millones de catalanes, más o menos la mitad de la población. La policía española atacó a los que salieron de sus casas a votar dejando más de mil heridos, algunos sin ojos.

No obstante, de los que consiguieron votar, el 90% votó por la independencia, el 5% en contra y el otro 5% fueron votos en blanco o nulos. España encarceló a los representantes catalanes elegidos democráticamente por la población catalana, que era quien pedía el referéndum. El presidente catalán de entonces, Carles Puigdemont pidió asilo político y todavía sigue exiliado en Bélgica.

Este pasado 14 de octubre el Tribunal Supremo sentenció a penas de 100 años de cárcel en su totalidad a los representantes catalanes. Desde ese día, los catalanes están saliendo todos los días a la calle a protestar por esa injusta sentencia. Vascos, gallegos y hasta madrileños se han unido en solidaridad con los presos políticos catalanes.

El eslogan tan vociferado por el gobierno español y sus medios, es otra mentira más del Gobierno español. Se vio y se grabó a policías españoles quemando contenedores en Barcelona. También están grabadas escenas de confraternización entre jóvenes neonazis y policías españoles. Así mismo se grabó a jóvenes neonazis dando palizas a gente y campando a sus anchas por Barcelona con el beneplácito de la policía. Yo no quiero decir que esta fue la única violencia, pero es la violencia que ni los medios de comunicación ni la versión oficial va nunca a reconocer como tal.

País Vasco

Las muestras de apoyo y solidaridad con Cataluña han sido mayoritarias desde Euskal Herria (País Vasco).

GURE ESKU DAGO (ES NUESTRO DERECHO), una plataforma que aglutinó sindicatos, y diversidad de partidos políticos vascos organizó la marcha solidaria con los presos políticos catalanes en Donostia (San Sebastián) a la que nos unimos 42,000 personas para manifestar nuestra solidaridad bajo el lema: “ERREFERENDUMA EZ DA DELITUA”(“EL REFERENDUM NO ES DELITO”).

Pacíficamente. No hubo altercados de ningún tipo. Ni siquiera vi a

la policía. Y es que, como dice mi aita (padre) “las fuerzas del orden llegaron y el desorden quedó establecido”.

En Euskal Herria tenemos también más de 200 presos políticos. En particular el caso de Altsasu (Alsasua) ha sido y sigue siendo una gran injusticia. En octubre de 2016, en fiestas del pueblo de Altsasu dos Guardias Civiles vestidos de paisano con sus novias, entraron en un bar del pueblo y empezaron una pelea hacia las 4 de la madrugada. Esa misma noche, poco después, 8 jóvenes del pueblo eran llevados a prisión acusados de terrorismo. Desde entonces están encarcelados, aunque el delito de terrorismo no puedo ser demostrado en el posterior juicio.

Y es que la Guardia Civil, como fuerzas de ocupación que son, cobran un plus por peligrosidad al trabajar en territorio vasco. Como en el 2011 ETA (EUSKALERRIA ‘TA ASKATASUNA= TIERRA VASCA Y LIBERTAD) dejó su actividad terrorista, y a fecha de 2016 la Guardia Civil seguía cobrando su plus, de alguna manera quieren justificar que viven en territorio peligroso, que no es cierto, dicho sea de paso.

Elecciones en el estado español

Y así llegamos a las elecciones que habrá el 10 de noviembre en el estado español. Las cuartas en cuatro años. A la población española se le alimenta con odio hacia vascos y catalanes por todos los partidos españolistas, incluidos los que se autodenominan a sí mismos de izquierdas. Estos días insisten en sus medios de comunicación-intoxicación en la violencia de Barcelona y eso da muchos votos a los partidos españoles nacionalistas (PP y PSOE) y más todavía a alguno abiertamente fascista, como VOX.

Otra circunstancia que coincide en el tiempo con las elecciones es la exhumación del asesino fascista Dictador Franco. (Vaya casualidad que después de 40 años de estar enterrado en el Insufrible Monumento a los Caídos sea este jueves que viene, justo antes de las cuartas elecciones en cuatro años que haya que sacar sus restos del monumento para enterarlo en otro lugar menos aparatoso!) Y es que este acto lo aprovechan los fascistas para inflarse y sacar pecho. Y sacar más votos para los partidos nacionalistas españoles de derechas: PP, Ciudadanos, VOX.

Franco no solo mandó a fusilar gente durante la guerra; él mandó a fusilar hasta el mismo año de su muerte en 1975. La limpieza política que hizo Franco de gente de izquierdas fue apoteósica. Murieron en sus manos los legítimos representantes políticos elegidos por el pueblo, republicanos de izquierdas, comunistas, socialistas, gente afiliada a sindicatos, gente que no iba a misa (los curas les decían quien no había ido a misa), etc.

Así que yo sigo con la definición de España que hace Evaristo Páramos. Tiene toda la razón.

